UC chairman killed in Jhal Magsi clash

Man kills his wife and her alleged paramour in Goth Nukhob

By Ali Jan Mangi

DERA MURAD JAMALI: A tribal elder and chairman of the Panjk Union Council in Jhal Magsi district was killed in exchange of fire between two clans of the Magsi tribe on Saturday, while his two children were injured.

Police said the exchange of fire occurred in the Panjk area when members of two rival groups came face to face. As a result, Panjk Union Council Chairman Mir Asif Sohrab Magsi was killed on the spot, while his two children traveling with him received injuries.

Soon after receiving information, a heavy contingent of police rushed to the scene and shifted the body and the injured to the district hospital in Gandawah. After completion of legal formalities, the body was handed over to the bereaved family. The injured were identified as Muhammad Hasan Magsi and Amir Hamza Magsi.

Tension prevailed in the area after the incident, prompting the deployment of police and Balochistan Constabulary personnel to prevent further clashes between the rival groups. Further investigation was under way.

'Honour' killing

Meanwhile, in another firing incident, a man killed his wife and her alleged paramour in the name of honour in Goth Nukhob near Dera Murad Jamali.

Police said the accused, identified as Naik Dil, opened fire on his wife and her alleged paramour before fleeing the scene. Police reached Goth Nukhob and shifted the bodies of the man and woman to hospital to complete legal formalities.

The bodies were later handed over to their families. A case has been registered against the accused, and police are conducting raids for his arrest.

ROADSIDE vendors sit with their merchandise along a street in Quetta.—PPI

'Education primary tool for empowering youth'

By Behram Baloch

GWADAR: Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, who is also the chancellor of universities, reaffirmed that education is the primary tool for empowering youth and ensuring peace and prosperity in the province.

Speaking at the third convocation of University of Turbat, he expressed satisfaction over the university's 50 per cent female enrollment and urged graduates to use their skills and talents to promote human dignity and tolerance.

The convocation was attended by political leaders, MNAs, provincial ministers, vice chancellors of Gwadar and Makran universities, Dr Abdul Razaaq Sabir and Dr Professor Saadat Baloch, prominent educationists and others.

The governor praised the University of Turbat for playing a vital role in promoting higher education in southern Balochistan since its establishment. He commended Vice Chancellor Dr Gul Hassan and his team for enlightening thousands of young people through modern education and contributing to positive social change.

Balochistan's security, development reviewed

QUETTA: The 21st meeting of the State Defence Conference was held here on Saturday under the joint chairmanship of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Corps Commander Balochistan Lieutenant General Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan.

Speaking at the gathering, also known as the 'Hardening of the State Conference', CM Bugti said the conference had been held regularly for the past one and a half years and emerged as an effective platform for promoting peace and stability in the province.

He explained that the conference, convened approximately every 21 days, primarily aimed to review progress on the implementation of decisions taken in previous meetings.

Representatives of federal and provincial institutions and departments, along with security forces including the Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps and Pakistan Coast Guard, attended the meeting.

Special focus was placed on anti-smuggling and anti-narcotics operations, with participants stressing the need to further intensify action against these harmful activities.

The participants expressed satisfaction over the 'B areas to A areas conversion' initiative and emphasised the need for all-out efforts to ensure its effectiveness across all divisions of the province so that development benefits reach every region and an environment of peace and prosperity is strengthened.

Balochistan's Home Ministry has merged the Levies Force into the police and abolished all 'B' areas across the province, converting them into 'A' areas.

The meeting also held detailed discussions on the overall security situation in Balochistan, progress on development projects and public welfare matters. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to continuing effective strategies to secure a bright future for the province.—Saleem Shahid

Pakistan, US agree to boost security

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Chaudhry, the interior secretary, the FIA director general, the Federal Constabulary commandant, the additional interior secretary, the NCCIA director general, the Passport and Immigration director general, the Islamabad police chief, and other senior officials were also present on the occasion.

Military-to-military ties

Meanwhile, military-to-military ties between Pakistan and the United States appear to be strengthening, marked by renewed joint training, major defence sales and unusually warm rhetoric from President Trump towards Islamabad's military leadership.

According to a statement issued by the US Central Command (Centcom), American and Pakistani troops this week concluded joint training at Pakistan's National Counter-Terrorism Centre in Pabbi.

"This week, US and Pakistan Army Soldiers completed training at Pakistan's National Counter-Terrorism Centre during 'Exercise Inspired Gambit', which focused on combined infantry skills and tactics, and counter-terrorism operations.

Training exercises like this between the US and Pakistan strengthen our long-standing defense ties," the statement read.

The exercise comes amid broader signs of re-engagement between the two defence establishments. In December, the US approved the sale of advanced technology and upgrade packages for Pakistan's F-16 fighter aircraft, a deal valued at approximately $686 million.

The approval followed regional tensions after Pakistan and India fought a brief but intense five-day conflict in May last year.

Political signalling from Washington has also drawn attention. President Trump has repeatedly praised Pakistan's army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, referring to him publicly as his "favourite field marshal".

Analysts say Washington's renewed focus on the Middle East, particularly Gaza and Iran, combined with the performance of Pakistan's air force during the May conflict with India, encouraged the US to improve its ties with Islamabad's defence establishment.

Pakistan has also signalled its willingness to participate in a US-led international stabilisation force for Gaza, a controversial proposal advanced by President Trump, further underlining Islamabad's interest in closer security cooperation.

Recent military exercises, arms sales and high-level engagement suggest that defence ties between Washington and Islamabad are entering a new and more pragmatic phase.

Anwar Iqbal in Washington also contributed to this report

Trump asks 60 leaders to join Gaza board

Continued from Page 1

outlining the Gaza peace board's responsibilities says it will work to "restore dependable and lawful governance and secure enduring peace in areas affected or threatened by conflict", in place of other organisations.

The charter also implicitly criticises the UN. It opens with emphasising the need for "a more nimble and effective international peace-building body", adding that durable peace requires "the courage to depart from ... institutions that have too often failed".

The charter treats the chairmanship as a personal role rather than one linked to the US presidency, stating that "Donald J. Trump shall serve as inaugural Chairman of the Board of Peace", with no reference to the office of president or to any fixed term.

Remarkably, the board's chairmanship is not tied to the US presidency and does not end when Trump leaves office.

As chairman, Trump would wield sweeping authority over the body's composition, operations and even its continued existence. He alone would invite states to join, renew or terminate their membership, appoint and remove members of the executive board, nominate its chief executive and veto any executive decision, subject only to a possible two-thirds veto.

He would have exclusive power to create or dissolve subsidiary bodies, issue binding resolutions, designate his own successor and dissolve the organisation outright or renew it at will every two years.

The chairman is also required to "at all times designate a successor", who would "immediately assume the position of the chairman and all associated duties and authorities", reinforcing that continuity of leadership flows from Trump's designation rather than from any public office he or a successor holds.

The charter also ties membership privileges to financial contributions, carving out a special exemption for major donors.

While most member states are limited to three-year terms, the charter states that "the three-year membership term shall not apply to member states that contribute more than $1 billion in cash funds to the Board of Peace within the first year of the Charter's entry into force", effectively allowing wealthier backers to retain their seats indefinitely, subject to the chairman's discretion.

Board composition against policy: Israel

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said on Saturday that the Trump administration announcement on the composition of a Gaza executive board was not coordinated with Israel and ran counter to government policy.

It said Foreign Minister Gideon Saar would raise the issue with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

The statement did not specify what part of the board's composition contradicted Israeli policy. An Israeli government spokesperson declined to comment.

Anwar Iqbal & Baqir Sajjad Syed / Monitoring Desk

40 samples test positive

Continued from Page 1

crippling disease was found in sewage, the sample was termed positive, while the paralysis of a child caused by the virus was recorded as a positive case. "A sewage water sample from an area is a basic parameter used to determine whether polio vaccination campaigns are being carried out successfully. After detection of positive samples, polio campaigns are immediately launched to eradicate the virus from the area," he said.

"A polio case can be reported in any city due to the frequent movement of people from one city to another, but the presence of the virus in sewage water means that a vaccination campaign in the area did not meet its target. The presence of the virus in sewage water also indicates that the immunity level of local children has fallen and that they are at risk of the disease," the official explained.

According to a statement, in 2025 the National Emergency Operations Centre for Polio Eradication, led by the government of Pakistan, conducted six vaccination campaigns, including five nationwide and one sub-national drive, reaching over 45 million children.

As part of this roadmap, the first nationwide polio campaign of 2026 will be conducted from February 2 to 8 in all four provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and Islamabad, aiming to vaccinate over 45 million children under the age of five.

"To further strengthen immunity, the government of Pakistan continues to provide free routine immunisation services for all children up to two years of age. Together, routine immunisation and repeated polio vaccination provide the strongest and most reliable protection against polio and other preventable diseases.

Parents and caregivers are strongly urged to ensure that children under five receive polio drops during every vaccination campaign to protect them from life-long disability," it stated.

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INNA LILLAHI WA INNA ILAYHI RAJIUN

Dr. Arif Jamshed
Ex-Head of Radiation Oncology,
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